[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Hon'ble Minister, that is not my question. The Government has set up open godowns at a number of places in Uttar Pradesh. There is one such godown in Lalitpur. But you are getting vacated the godown located at Moranipur in Jhansi and also transferring the staff. What I mean to say is that on one hand you are setting up open godowns and on the other hand you are getting vacated the godowns available with you. I would like to know the reasons therefor ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have been informed that there is no open godown in Lalitpur. But now that you are saying it, I'll get an enquiry conducted.

MR. SPEAKER : Please look into this matter.

[English]

Shrimp Farming

+

*327. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an authority under clause (3) of Section 3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 as per the directions of December 11, 1996 of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the restrictions imposed on the shrimp farming as per orders of the Court;

(d) the total loss of foreign exchange earnings due to this judgement;

(e) whether Government are planning to rehabilitate the affected fishermen; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests through a Notification (No. S.O. 88(E) dated 6.2.97 constituted an "Aquaculture Authority" under Sub-Section (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, in accordance with the Supreme Court's judgement dated 11.12.96. The Authority shall be headed by a retired judge of a High Court with members drawn from the Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce, Environment and Forests as well as experts in the field of Environment protection, aquaculture and pollution control. The functions of the Authority include issue of approval to undertake shrimp culture activities, implementation of "precautionary principles" and the "polluter pays" principle, ensuring payment of compensation to workmen employed in the shrimp culture industries; deal with environmental issues pertaining to coastal areas, etc. as indicated in the Supreme Court's judgement dated 11.12.96.

(c) The Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on 11.12.96 has imposed certain restrictions on shrimp farming along the coastal belt. The judgement *inter-alia* states that :

(i) No shrimp culture pond can be constructed or set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) except farms practising traditional and improved types of technologies in the coastal low lying areas. This shall be applicable to all seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters.

(ii) All aquaculture industries/shrimp culture industries/shrimp culture ponds operating/set up in the coastal regulation zone as defined under the CRZ Notification shall be demolished and removed from the said area before March 31, 1997.

(iii) No aquaculture industry/shrimp culture industry/ shrimp culture ponds shall be constructed/set up within 1000 metre of Chilka Lake and Pulicat lake (including Bird Sanctuaries, namely, Yudurapattu and Nelapattu).

(iv) Agricultural lands, salt pan lands, mangroves, wet lands, forest lands, land for village common purposes, shall not be used/converted for construction of shrimp culture ponds.

(v) Aquaculture industry/shrimp culture ponds other than traditional and improved traditional may be set up/constructed outside the Coastal Regulation Zone with prior approval of the 'authority'.

(d) It is not possible to estimate the quantum of loss of foreign exchange at this stage.

(e) and (f) The Government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking review of its judgement dated 11.12.96 which has not been listed as yet. The question of rehabilitation if any will arise after the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, on this review Petition. The matter is sub-judice.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the recent landmark judgement, the hon. Supreme Court has ordered the demolition and removal of aqua farms in the Coastal Regulation Zones before March 31, 1997. The findings of the Supreme Court are that these

aqua farms cause salinity, sedimentation and health hazards, besides polluting drinking water.

Under these circumstances, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any scientific study has been conducted by the experts under the I.C.A.R. ? If so, what are the findings thereof ? If not, I would like to know whether the Government propose to conduct any in-depth study to determine the bad effects on the ecology as well as the environment of our country.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, it is a fact that a very serious situation has arisen due to the judgement of the Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court is the Supreme Court. So, we have to abide by their judgement. We are trying to have some type of legislation If the House so agrees, it can, both protect the ecology as well as the farmers' rights. We are thinking about it.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, my question is, whetner any study has been conducted under the I.C.A.R. about the bad effects on the ecology and the environment of our country.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the I.C.A.R., as a whole, has not conducted it, but it has done it partly. Some other organisations have done it and based on that the Supreme Court has given its judgement.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, we all know that a great damage has been done to the ecology of our coastal belts due to the setting up of these aquaculture farms. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there are any concrete plans or proposals with the Government to rectify the ecological damage already done to the land ? If so, what are the proposals ? Will the hon. Minister spell out the concrete proposals ?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the matter is before the Supreme Court for review. I cannot give him the details. Let them pass orders. Only then I can say something.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : But do you have any plan to rectify the ecological damage ?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I will tell you that the aquaculture business which will be carried on in future, will take into account the ecology first and then other things.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Varieties of Cash Crops

*328. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Research Institute has developed some new varieties of cash crop seed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the new seeds are likely to be used; and

(d) the results likely to be achieved therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Cotton variety — 'Pusa B-6' has been identified for late sown conditions in Punjab, Haryana, Northern Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh.

Grape hybrid 'Pusa Navrang' has been developed for Northern India. It is good for making juice and coloured wine.

Bhindi variety 'Okra A-4' a yellow vein mosaic virus resistant variety has been released for the whole country

Four varieties of Gladioli namely Neelam, Suryakiran, Dhanwantri and Sangervani and five varieties of roses namely Mother Teresa, Nehru Centenary, Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar, Lahar and Chitra have been released recently.

Additionally a wide choice of improved varieties/hybrids of different cash crops have been developed and released for general cultivation by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through its Institutes spread all over the country.

(d) The above varieties will help in increasing productivity of these crops resulting into higher profitability to the farmers.

[Translation]

Productivity Rate of Foodgrains

*329. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the areas where productivity rate of foodgrains is below than that at the national level;

(b) if so, the names of such areas along with the rates of productivity of wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds and other foodgrains there; and

(c) the details of schemes formulated/proposed to be formulated by the Government on priority basis to raise productivity level of the foodgrains in the said areas ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A statement giving the average productivity for triennium ending